

# THE HERON HERALD



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PHOTO BY AMAYA BECHLER

**From left: Dimitri Cox, Eva Swartz, Olivia Joachim, and Cosmo Bernstein are interviewed by North Coast News on the Arcata Plaza during the International Climate Strike on Sept. 20. The strike was organized by Swedish activist Greta Thunberg and took place three days before the United Nations' Climate Summit.**

## Striking for Change

**By Zoe Osborn**  
*Staff Writer*

"No more coal! No more oil! Keep the carbon in the soil!" With a hunger for action, NPA students chanted these

words as they made their way from the NPA High School to the Arcata Plaza for the September 20, 2019 Climate Strike.

Once at the plaza, the NPA students joined into the conglomerate of people forming around a speaker standing in the middle of the plaza. Among this crowd were students from Sunny Brae Middle School, NPA Middle School, Arcata High School and Humboldt State University, as well as other community members of all ages. The activ-

ists at this local strike were symbolically joining the other four million people in this global movement started by Swedish youth activist, Greta Thunberg.

One of the marchers, NPA junior Miles Eldridge, found this strike to be important because "climate change is one of the biggest issues our generation is facing and we're not doing enough to stop it." Alex Riggs, a sophomore and coordinator of NPA's involvement

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## A Casualty of the System

Former teacher Carl Mumm reflects on charter schools and leaving NPA

**By Amaya Bechler**  
*Staff Writer*

July 1st, 2019 was a typical, overcast summer day in Humboldt. Nothing seemed amiss within the collective of NPA. Students had bid goodbye to their school teachers exactly one month prior. Then, around noon, the school community received an inconspicuous email from Head of School Michael Bazemore, announcing staffing changes for the coming year.

What the email revealed, however, came as a visceral shock to many students. Carl Mumm, English and Theory of Knowledge teacher and beloved friend to many students, would be leaving after three years at NPA. "It was that feeling when you've forgotten something important," reflects senior Gale McComas. "My heart sank into my stomach. I felt sick. I was nauseous."

Bazemore stated in his message that "As [community members] may know, Carl has been looking for positions in other areas with universities where his wife could also find employment." This explanation was surprising to students. Mumm had been noted by many students and faculty for his diligence and attentiveness to his students, as well as his honesty. No one had been aware that he had decided to leave. So it especially concerned his students that he hadn't mentioned this.

Approximately four hours after the first email, students received another email, this one from Mumm himself. Casting light on the primary reason behind his decision, he explained that if he had opted to re-

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PHOTO BY ABIGAIL HASTING-THARP

**Students reach out for a dollar, representative of NPA's stretched-thin budget that requires careful planning in order to satisfy the school's needs.**

## A Complicated Budget

**By Devon Baker-Berry**  
*Staff Writer*

It is no secret that NPA operates on a smaller budget than other public schools in Arcata. However, while the facilities lack many things that larger public schools own, such as a gym or lab, many hours of hard work has gone into organizing the limited budget into an academically rigorous school.

To understand the intricacies of NPA's budget, it is important to dive into the source of the money. As NPA is a public charter school, much of its funding comes from the state of California. Localized funding is controlled by the Humboldt County Office of Education. However, some of the money is openly given to schools. "Certain funds are required to be in categories," explained NPA Head of School, Michael Bazemore. The different accounts all have certain requirements that they can be used for. Title 1 funding, for example, is government funding that can only be used for needs identified during the funding process.

Other safeguards also need to be passed before the budget can be approved. Goals for instruction are created and then presented to parents and other people to whom it impacts. These goals are put into the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). This allows for the specification of funds according to the previously made goals for students academic improvement. LCAP's real shining point though, is how it creates a platform for parents and other stakeholders to take an active part in the planning of the school. In creating a more democratic process, the LCAP has empowered communities to make beneficial changes to many schools.

One of the parts of NPA that sets it out from other schools is its International Baccalau-

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## The Youth Poet Laureate

**By Nikita Michelle Van Nordstrand**  
*Staff Writer*

"How did you know  
That the edge of the world  
Is right here.  
Eureka, California."

Harvey Mitchell, a sophomore at NPA, has recently been nominated as Eureka's youth poet laureate. For some time, the city of Eureka has been known for encouraging the arts, this includes the Youth Poet Laureate program, which was recently started by city council

member, Leslie Castellano.

Mitchell discovered the program through his father and community, and was encouraged to apply for the position. He submitted

***"I've lived within 200 miles of where my ancestors were for my whole life, and I think it's really nice to feel like the place where I grew up cares about what I want for it"***

Harvey Mitchell, Sophomore

three poems, as well as a list of his ideas on how to improve Eureka, and was chosen as the youth poet laureate out of several candidates. His ideas for improving Humboldt start with an LGBTQ+ support group for the youth of the

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PHOTO COURTESY OF OLIVER SCHROEDER

**Sophomore Harvey Mitchell was chosen as Eureka's Youth Poet Laureate this past year, and has been working with his community to fulfill this position.**

### SPORTS Cross Country

This year, NPA's successful cross country team grew in membership and competed strongly in many meets in the region.

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### GLOBAL Exchange Students

Meet this year's exchange students, hailing from a wide variety of countries in Europe, including Belgium, Spain, and Austria.

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### EVENTS Democratic debate parties

History teacher Arnold King hosts democratic debate parties in order to prepare students for their vital role as future voters.

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# The Word

Do you feel that choir is an important part of NPA? Would you rather stick with this schedule or revert to the old one? Why?



Jane McCaffrey

“I was really shocked and upset when I found out we weren’t having choir this year. I think it’s a really valuable thing for our school to do, and I’m glad we haven’t abandoned it altogether, but I miss having it every week, and it feels like something’s missing.”



Jason Roberts

“The NPA choir is a vital part of our community, but it is not necessary for our education. I would like to go back to last year’s schedule, but perhaps [with] a different period.”



Ellis Otis

“I think that having all of us in one room creates a good environment. While I do think that we still feel that sense of community when we get together, it is a bit lessened in our day to day interactions.”



Stasia Sullivan

“My brothers always thought that choir was a very important part of school. I think that it would be nice to have choir a little more often than we are having it now, because it is an old tradition.”

## MUMM

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main at NPA, he would have been teaching five classes: two at the middle school, and three at the high school. In his words, “that is an impossible schedule to teach well, and I have certain standards for myself that I would not be able to uphold [...]. Therefore, I have elected not to teach rather than teach poorly.”

Students saw a clear conflict between the two emails, each emphasizing seemingly contradictory reasons for Mumm’s departure.

Mumm welcomed his former students to keep in touch. Whereas some have, to the majority of students it remained a mystery where Mumm was, and exactly what had spurred him to leave the school. While his arranged schedule was certainly one of the reasons, it wasn’t the only factor.

Carl Mumm is currently living in Westchester County, New York . It’s a matter of necessity that brought him there. “My wife’s mother is having memory issues,” says Mumm. “She’s been getting worse, so we needed to come here and deal with it directly.” Mumm’s mother died of Alzheimer’s disease while he was teaching at NPA, so Mumm is no stranger to this hardship. He divulges that “it’s been very trying, and it’s a difficult situation. It seems that it’s unimaginable, but it happens to so many people. It’s a stage of life sort of thing.”

This issue had been weighing on Mumm and he had indicated his intention to leave the school at some point. Nevertheless, he had planned to stay at NPA for another year. After getting word of the proposed teaching schedule for the following year, however, Mumm explains “I told [Michael Bazemore] that was not tenable, and that no teacher can do that and be an effective teacher. If I can’t be an effective teacher, then I don’t want to be a teacher. And Michael disagreed.”

Bazemore explains that it was completely mandatory that Mumm take on the five-class schedule if he were to keep his full-time position. His three-class schedule would only warrant half-time pay. Additionally, Bazemore explained that “there are a lot of teachers that teach five classes. Most teachers also teach at both the middle school and the high school.” While new English teacher Michael Masinter only teaches three classes, he has only been hired as a part-time employee. Mumm was unable to work the full-time schedule, because, suggests Bazemore, “he’s one of those teachers whose very conscientious, and that’s a strength.”

It follows that Mumm was unable to reject the proposed schedule while remaining a teacher at NPA, but he blames a lack of unionization and worker protections as the cause of this. NPA is a charter school - a school that functions off public taxpayer money, but that provides a niche education that may not be found at traditional public schools. Opposed to the charter school concept, Mumm said “when I came to NPA it was already compromising because charter schools are really problematic in terms of what I think education should be.” Mumm went on to describe charter schools as businesses, that is, businesses that sell a certain education to the detriment of the community. “If we had only public schools, with equal access, if the rich kids had to go to a public school, the public schools would be performing better.” After describing the imbalance in the education system, Mumm went on to explain that almost no charter schools are unionized. “Personally, I am for unions and I am for teachers being protected and having a say in what they’re teaching,” said Mumm. “Charter schools don’t offer that.”

***“I knew that when I went in to NPA I’d probably get in trouble because I’m really outspoken about [the problems with charter schools.] I’m just a casualty of that system. I wasn’t surprised by what happened,”***

Carl Mumm, former teacher

Andrew Freeman, fifteen years a teacher at NPA, offers his own view and knowledge about charter schools. He describes charter schools as an overall positive concept that can serve specific needs in a community. On the topic of unionization, he remarked that “there are charter schools that are unionized. There’s nothing that says that a charter school can’t be unionized. NPA’s not, but that’s because no one here has felt the need to go that direction.” Freeman believes that charter schools are functioning well in Humboldt County. He only sees them as becoming problematic when a private business separate from the charter school funds the school in exchange for a certain type of education.

Another reason that charter schools may not be unionized could stem from the complications they face. “Charter schools, in my view, are at a disadvantage,” explained Freeman. “We don’t get as much funding from the state as traditional public schools.” Charter schools are also tightly regulated. Bazemore, who teaches Philosophy and Theory of Knowledge courses along with his administrative role, says that state regulations make operating a charter school time-consuming. “I would say I spend 25 percent of my time on regulation and oversight which I could be spending contributing to the school’s academic programs,” said Bazemore.

Mumm, however, had problems with NPA’s nature as

a charter school even before becoming a teacher there. “I knew that when I went in to NPA I’d probably get in trouble because I’m really outspoken about this. I’m just a casualty of that system. I wasn’t surprised by what happened,” reflects Mumm.

Presently, both Mumm and his wife are not employed. “Being employed is this sort of adult game of subjugation and power,” he explains. His wife, an environmental scientist, has had trouble finding work due to outspokenness. “She’s a truth teller and has a lot of solutions, none of which want to be heard. Even NGO’s, [non-governmental organizations] in these places that are supposedly for the environment, are all wrapped up in business and politics.”

Both Mumm and his wife seem to have an ideal of uncompromising honesty. Freeman, fellow teacher and friend to Mumm, describes, “Carl is one of the most honest people I’ve ever known. I didn’t agree with him about everything, but I really loved his honesty and forthrightness, and his departure was a real loss for our school.” Freeman also praises Mumm as an excellent and uncompromising teacher. “I saw a teacher who never cut corners with the students, to the detriment of his own health, he was up late nights making sure he read every single sentence of every single paper that a student wrote.”

Many students also strongly miss Mumm and are aware of the effort he put in as a teacher. Junior Bryn Cheli-Colando exclaimed “I adored Carl. Carl had an amazing sense of humor, and he was a master at rhetorical analysis and talking about different discourses.” Multiple students agree that, as senior Conrad McConnell puts it, “he also had the best selection of books I’ve ever read in an English class.” Mumm also maintained a sense of colloquialism with his students, and many upperclassmen consider him not only an excellent teacher, but a friend as well. Senior Melissa Horne reflects that “I miss Carl because he was the only teacher I could bully and who was actually fine with it.”

***“I really loved [Mumm’s] honesty and forthrightness, and his departure was a real loss for our school.”***

Andrew Freeman, Teacher

Mumm has also reciprocated the praise of his students; when asked what he misses about NPA, the students come first. “They were the highlight, and it was everything to me at NPA. The students are great and have really shown their appreciation, they’re simply amazing.” He also expresses his appreciation that many of the students have chosen to keep in touch.

For now, though, Mumm is looking ahead to the future. Teaching licenses aren’t easily transferable between states, so it makes it difficult for him to secure a job outside of California. Vermont, though, seems promising in this regard - it may have some real reciprocity for a California license. Mumm also reflects that “this was my twenty-first city to city move, and that doesn’t even taken into account moving inside the city. That would double or even triple the number. It’s ridiculous and I’m so tired of it.” He hopes to find somewhere to finally settle down. Additionally, Mumm intends to eventually publish a novel, which he had been unable to get to during his time at NPA.

It’s safe to assume that the NPA community can agree Carl Mumm’s departure was a huge loss to the school, and Heron Herald staff wish him luck wherever the future may lead.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARL MUMM  
**Carl Mumm, former English teacher, taught for three years before leaving unexpectedly this summer. His departure dismayed many of his students, and was surrounded by potential controversy and mystery.**

## POET

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county.

Mitchell believes there is a lack of teenagers in the poetry community. He’s very focused on giving a voice to teens and especially to minorities. In the future, Mitchell will be speaking at public events, and reg-

ularly works with Word Humboldt, a spoken word poetry community in Arcata. He hopes to publish a chat-book within the next year and go on a small tour of the west coast.

Mitchell’s poems center around identity and being a teenage minority, and said that “it’s been a very positive experience.” As poet laureate, Mitchell attends city council meetings, sharing poems about the

city and representing the youth. He is also required to meet a certain quota of poems about life in Eureka whilst he holds the position. “I think the program really asks of what you want for this city you are a part of... I’ve lived within 200 miles of where my ancestors were for my whole life, and I think it’s really nice to feel like the place where I grew up cares about what I want for it,” he concluded.





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in the march agreed with this sentiment. She said that the march was significant because not only are everyday citizens not doing enough, but “no one in the government is taking action right now.” A similar idea was brought up by Zoë Reiss, an Arcata High senior who gave a speech at the strike. Reiss thought that “for youth who can’t vote, [the strike] is a way for them to get their message out and tell people that they’re demanding action.” She went on to say however, that the burden of stopping

climate change cannot be put on youth alone. Younger generations frustrated by leaders’ and legislatures’ apathy and ignorance towards this crisis appeared to be a common theme at this strike. Eldridge explained that “It’s good that youth are involved, but if serious change is to be enacted then we need more adults to join in this too. We need senators and governors to be more aware of these issues and enact legislation that will help make a change.” While some adults may not care as much or actively try to stop the climate crisis, the number of adults that showed up at the Humboldt Climate Strike proved to the youth that are inheriting this planet that there is still hope. Among these concerned

adults was NPA English teacher Michael Masinter and history teacher Andrew Freeman. Freeman viewed this strike as a last resort, saying that “in history when people go on strike it represents that other attempts to create change have fallen short, and it’s kind of like the final act. The time of asking for change and hoping for change has passed, and a strike means demands!” He noted that people in power have been aware of climate change for the past four decades and that innovations exist to help deal with it, but not enough is being done because of lack of political will. Yahmoahqah, the chair of local green party of Humboldt County, and speaker at the strike elaborated on this idea in his speech. According to Yahmoahqah, the main reason for climate change is capitalism. “Historically, the only thing, in our analysis that’s causing the climate crisis is capitalism. It’s a totally unrestrained system that’s devouring our environmental resources and causing pollution. We’ve had lots of innovations produced to help deal with climate change since the 40’s but companies like Exxon Mobil stop the produc-

tion of these innovations by doing things like buying out patents and stifling innovation.” All of the information about the political situation around climate change can be overwhelming and can give many a feeling of desperation, but a lot of people attending the march still have hope and ideas for how we can continue to fight to end this crisis. Arcata High sophomore Amadeus Garcia Brown, a coordinator for the march said that “it’s the small changes you make in your day to day life that add up and have a larger impact.” Among other things, this means reducing your carbon footprint, supporting businesses that are environmentally conscious, and lowering your water usage. More important than these actions however, is staying politically active and continuing to speak out against climate change by writing to people who have more power to make a difference, such as legislators. The fight for change should not end with these strikes, and as Thunberg so eloquently put it: “I want you to act as if the house is on fire, because it is.”



PHOTOS BY AMAYA BECHLER  
**Upper left:** NPA junior Oliver Schroeder gives a moving speech at the Arcata Plaza for the 2019 climate strike.  
**Bottom left:** NPA juniors Acacia Castillo and Thea Lamers march to the plaza amongst much of the NPA student body.  
**Upper right:** NPA junior Cosmo Bernstein reminds the crowd of the urgency of the climate strike.  
**Lower right:** Yahmoahqah, chair of the local Green Party, speaks out on climate change.



Youth Voices Should Be Heard

By Abram Rau  
Staff Writer

Rebellious teenager is a term that’s been around as long as teenagers themselves. It’s often been used to dismiss young people as they forge their own identity through their adolescence. Today, however, more and more high school students are giving a new face to the stereotypical image of a “rebellious teenager,” becoming more active in student-led demonstrations last seen in the 1960s. “Rebellion” by teenagers has acquired a new meaning and purpose: young people today are not rebelling simply for the sake of being rebellious, difficult teenagers, but instead because they feel they need to fight for justice and a stable government in the world they will soon inherit. This fight that young people have pits them against decades of status quo that has led the United States and other countries around the world away from competent public policy. Teenagers have given life to the careers of activists like David Hogg and Greta Thunberg, who have emerged as voices of the youngest generation. Today’s progressive movements are possible at the scale they are largely because of the invention of the internet in the 1990s. Generation Z, commonly referred to as Gen Z, is the generation of people born between 1995 and 2010, which makes it the first generation to be born in a world connected by the internet. Gen Z is the generation that current high school students belong to, and as such, high school students today have many more connections to the world than previous generations. Born into a world with news from all around the world online means being born with a way to learn about any bad news one can find there. Hence, Gen Z has been able to learn about world issues much quicker and at a much higher volume than ever before. Internet access among Americans has reached 90% of the population. This means Gen Z has had the same exposure to reports of mass shootings and pleas of climate scientists as people born decades earlier. But unlike adults, teenagers haven’t had decades to become numb to society’s problems; Gen Z has more motivation to fight against injustice, because they know that what they see is the world they will grow up to inherit, while currently being mainly observers of world affairs who don’t like what they see. After Nikolas Cruz killed 17 students at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL in 2018, survivors of the attacks

founded March For Our Lives, an organization advocating for better gun laws after it was discovered that Cruz was able to buy the gun he used in the attack despite being flagged as potentially dangerous by law enforcement and having been reported to the FBI. Efforts to tighten gun laws to prevent similar shootings, however, were stonewalled by the National Rifle Association and Republican legislators in Florida, which refused to increase background checks needed to buy semiautomatic firearms. After the attacks, and after the March For Our Lives movement took off, activists such as David Hogg were attacked by pro-gun groups and conservative commentators. These attacks took over Hogg’s social media pages for a time, with the attacks becoming violent, even from prominent commentators. Fox News opinion personality Laura Ingraham shared a conspiracy theory accusing Hogg and other activists of simply being crisis actors for adults working behind the scenes, and not that their message was coming from them. After the Parkland Shooting, March For Our Lives has enjoyed limited success in pressuring Republicans to pass gun law reforms. As of November 2019, Florida has raised the age to buy firearms from 18 to 21, as well as banning bump stocks, gun accessories that can turn a semi-automatic weapon into a fully automatic one; a gunman used one to kill 55 people attending a Las Vegas country music concert in 2017. In total, 11 states passed gun control laws in response to the shooting. And in October, Hong Kong’s governor Carrie Lam withdrew the Chinese extradition bill that sparked months of riots after university students in Hong Kong protested for months after the bill was announced. In Humboldt County, youth activism has been a formidable force. Hundreds of people marched during the March For Our Lives last year, and so many people marched during the Climate Strike that a representative from Congressman Jared Huffman’s office addressed the crowd. Other figures in the local community, including the Mayor and local Indigenous leaders, were part of the protests, and gave an important voice of validation to these youth movements. Elsewhere in the world, the same generation of young people in countries beset by oppressive governments have used the internet to band together and fight for freedom. In November, The Financial Times published an in-depth report about the generational divide between young protestors and the older generations in Hong Kong, many of whom are the parents of protestors. The report highlighted the burgeoning rifts between families in Hong Kong, telling the tale of “an older generation, who fled poverty and upheaval in mainland China,” and the youngest generation, mainly comprised of university students, who see those same ideals being eroded as social inequality

grows. Some of the most inspiring activism in this generation has been that of Greta Thunberg. The 16-year-old from Sweden became the head of the youth movement for climate change awareness when she rose to fame after word of her protests in her home town of Stockholm began to be shared online, showing her standing outside of the Swedish Riksdag protesting peacefully. As she continued to boycott school each Friday, her message spread, and a year later, she had amassed a following of millions of other youth, many being the students that walked out of school on September 27 in the Global Climate Strike. This spirit of an entire generation protesting together quickly drew people’s attention to the dire problem affecting young people’s future. Thunberg spoke at the United Nations Climate Action Summit in September. In her speech, she lambasted countries for failing to address the causes of climate change, and reiterated all of the problems humans will face if sea levels rise, including food shortages, flooding, and unpredictable weather patterns. Thunberg won Time Magazine’s “Person of the Year.” Teenage activism in many ways is good old-fashioned teenage rebellion. Young people are fed up with elected officials that don’t work for them fight for the things they believe in. But instead of the premonitions of one angsty teenager, it’s a global movement of young people fighting simply for justice. With the help of the internet, high school and college students across oceans can band together to call on politicians to address climate change so our planet stops dying, and university students can fly under the radar of Chinese oppression in Hong Kong. We see a nationwide March For Our Lives movement working to make their voice heard in as many places as they can, a chapter will even be coming to Humboldt County soon. When adults listen to young people that care so much about an issue, real progress can be made in the world. The youth of today aren’t the ones who choose to sit still and become wall-flowers while the world crumbles around them. High school students shouldn’t have to feel they have to skip school to protest for a brighter future. Even when many teenagers want to make big social change, there is only so much progress we can make alone. Gen Z makes up about 38% of the US population, but most of its members are under 18 and cannot vote. The only way real change happens is when the rest of the world agrees with what young people have to say, and can see things from their points of view. The sad reality is that climate change isn’t a big concern for 70 year old lawmakers. But if people can start to think about the legacy they will leave behind, then maybe we can listen to youth, and make the world a better place.





## BUDGET

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reate status. But, surprisingly, no additional funds are given to NPA for its International Baccalaureate status. This means that annual membership fees and trainings for teachers must come, in part, out of the budget. However, Bazemore assured that “[NPA] believe[s] in the value of the program, as a student centered open inquiry platform for all of our learners,” one that matters more than money.

NPA’s goal, as stated by French and Art teacher, Marceau Verdier, is to “offer the opportunity that every student who wants to travel gets to travel,” adds a whole new level of complication to the budget. To make this dream come true, money is one of the many goals that must be surmounted. The school offers some scholarships to its students, through the French dinner fundraiser where NPA has raised up to thirteen thousand dollars. That means that every person who worked at the French dinner could raise as much as \$260 to support international travel. Combined with the teaching of important fundraising skills, NPA has supported many students in widening their world views and experience.



PHOTO BY AMAYA BECHLER

The NPA Heron Herald questions NPA’s budget policies and inquires upon the spending of the school board and staff.

# Officer Pope Serves Arcata Schools

By Jaxon Peaker  
Staff Writer

According to the Washington Post, during the 2017-2018 school year, more than 4.1 million students experienced at least one lockdown. Lockdowns can be very nerve wracking, but with the right procedure, everything should be fine until help arrives.

Thanks to Arcata Police Department’s (APD) Officer Greg Pope, a designated school resource officer, NPA and other Arcata schools know that help is only a couple minutes away if ever needed. Pope noted that he “provides the schools a resource, whether it be legalities of law, citing kids if they get into trouble at school, or as a resource for the kids if they need someone to talk to.” Pope has been a part of the APD for 12 years and has been enjoying his role as the school resource officer, as he believes that this program is a great way for students to build interactions and to trust and see police officers in a different light.

Back in the day, the program used to be called the DARE Program (Drug Abuse Resistance Education), which later transformed into the School Resource Program. The program has been active in Arcata for the past 15-20 years and “it has been years and years that they’ve had somebody in these positions since this program has been going,” reflected Pope.

***“I provide the schools a resource. Whether it be for the legalities of law, citing kids if they get into trouble at school, or as a resource for the kids if they need someone to talk to.”***

Greg Pope, Police Officer

After NPA’s first ever lockdown drill on October 1st, Pope interacted with the students, informing them of his position and the program, while answering some of their questions and concerns about lockdown drills. One of NPA’s history teachers, Andrew Freeman, spoke about how “as a teacher and school administrator, just knowing that there is a police officer who is assigned to Arcata schools is very reassuring.” Though the lockdown drill was not perfect, students still managed to get to their designated meeting place in a short amount of time. “We learned a few things from the drill so that we can improve upon it for next time. I think it was a good start for our first lockdown drill for sure,” said Freeman. One critique that Pope had about NPA’s campus was how exposed everything is. “NPA is unique because it’s in a converted church,” said Pope. “The openness of the hallways and forums all create potential problems.” However, Pope also noted that he has no concern in any way that this will be a large problem. He helped to clarify NPA’s safety plan and

can see that it is clear where students need to go. “It was very smooth and teachers really know what they’re doing,” commented Pope.

Pope is currently stationed on the Arcata High School campus. According to him, his office is approximately a 2-minute drive from NPA, if something were to happen that required his support. Pope has never needed to ask NPA to enact a lockdown before, but still stresses the belief that “the safety starts with the fact that you all are on campus every day.”



PHOTO BY JAXON PEAKER

Officer Greg Pope with an Arcata Police Department vehicle, standing for school safety. Pope visited NPA to inform students and answer questions on lockdown and active shooter drills.

# New Clubs and Electives Blossoming at NPA

By Slate Taylor  
Staff Writer

This year NPA is host to a wide variety of exciting clubs and electives, some of which have just begun this school year.

One of such clubs: debate, has been initiated by NPA’s new English teacher Michael Masinter. The idea for this elective was mentioned in a teacher meeting at the beginning of the school year. Masinter decided to pick up the idea, as he has “always been interested in debate.” Masinter was also drawn to the idea because he finds that “debate relates to both of the disciplines that [he] usually teaches: English and History. In these courses students have to, “make claims and use evidence to support those claims,” similar to skills used in his other classes. Masinter hopes “to continue debate [next year] especially if there’s a lot of enthusiasm for it,” although he explained that he has also been interested in creating an environmental writing and literature elective in the future.

Another new elective at NPA, Dungeons and Dragons, was founded by juniors Alexander Waldo and Justin Kimmel. Within this elective a group of students plays Dungeons and Dragons, a popular tabletop fantasy game. “It helps to build improvisational skills and working with a group of people,” explained Kimmel “Problem solving and team building as well.” This game itself is very widespread, one of NPA’s new exchange students, Gergö Udvarhelyi, from Hungary had played before and was happy to join NPA’s group of players. “I very much enjoy [the elective]... I have played Dungeons and Dragons for nine years.”

***“[Dungeons and Dragons} helps to build improvisational skills and working with a group of people, as well as problem solving and team building.”***

Justin Kimmel, junior

Bowling Club, started by juniors Natasha Anderson and Cosmo Bernstein is another addition to NPA’s wide array of clubs and electives. Anderson told the story of how she and Bernstein “went bowling over the summer, had a lot of fun and wanted to start a club.” Anderson added that “it happened organically.” So far, the bowling club has gone bowling twice, with success. Anderson explained that the nights went “very well, and a lot of people showed up.” Eventually the pair hope to bowl for a cause, they “want to do something to raise money for a charity.” Bernstein and Anderson are also leading Drama Club again this year.

Some other new or revamped electives and clubs include Army King’s China Movie Elective in anticipation for the China/Tibet trip, QSA, and Film News. All of the new electives offer a variety of opportunities to fulfill students’ academic desires.

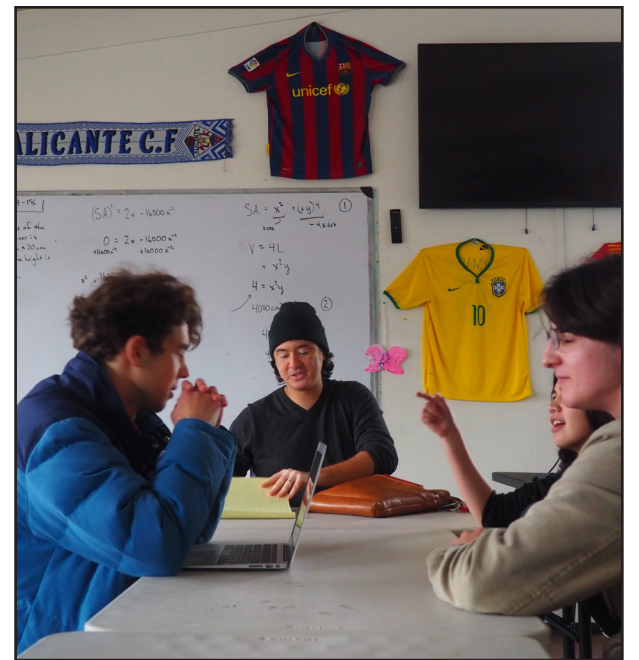


PHOTO BY ABIGAIL HASTING-THARP

NPA Junior Aiden Vayo-Tur and NPA English teacher Michael Masinter discuss poignant issues in debate elective.

# King Holds 2020 Election Debate Watch Party

By Abigail Hasting-Tharp  
Staff Writer

November of 2020 is rapidly approaching, and the next presidential election will be upon us. NPA history, health, and P.E. teacher Arnold King is helping NPA students to become educated and prepared voters when they get older.

Since September 2018, King has been

holding presidential debate viewing parties for NPA’s student body. The parties occur in the evening at the time of the debate, with turnouts of 20-30 students and representation from all four classes. As of this year, King has hosted two of these events, and plans to continue them as the November 2020 election approaches. The crowds that attend are met with a lively night of pizza, debate, and observation of the democratic debates.

“A lot of really thoughtful questions and discussions [were had] during our commercial breaks,” recalled King after the first watch parties of the school year. King has been very happy with the success of the events that have happened so far, and expressed pride in the students that attended,

noting that “the turnout was wonderful and [the attendees] really paid attention.”

The debate watch parties have been greatly appreciated by NPA students. Not only do they provide an outlet for information about the 2020 presidential candidates, but they also facilitate a platform for high school students to develop and voice their political opinions in a safe environment. Junior Aiden Vayo-Tur commented that before one party that he was “really curious to hear Army’s opinions” and use the night to build on and explain his own beliefs in the presence of peers.

The majority of high school students in America will not be able to vote in the upcoming election due to their age. Despite this, many teenagers are still passionate

about the elections outcome and want to share their voices. Thea Lamers, an NPA junior, is such a teenager. Lamers believes strongly that “even though I can’t vote, I still have a voice,” and can still contribute to the nationwide discussion about 2020’s democratic candidates. “I have strong opinions about the candidates,” said Lamers. “I can have conversations that contribute to other people’s opinions and votes. I still have a voice.”

In a world where youth are constantly belittled and silenced, cultivating safe spaces for them to be outspoken is very important. King continues to achieve this during debate watch parties, allowing true freedom of speech to flow.



# Start Smart

## CHP officer delivers driver safety program to students

By Devon Baker-Berry  
Staff Writer

Did you know that driving is the number one cause of death for teens over 15? Or that having a passenger in your car increases the risk of an accident by 50%? No? Well, you should have attended Officer Paul Craft's Start Smart presentation on teen driving safety.

On the 24th of September, 2019, Craft came to NPA to present a two hour-long course on defensive driving for teens, called the Start Smart Program. The Start Smart program is a joint idea created by the National Highway Traffic Safety and California Highway Patrol. It's purpose is to reduce driving risk. "Teens are four times more likely to be involved in a car crash than experienced drivers," explained Craft. To try and reduce teen deaths, the Smart Start program focuses on healthy driving patterns and involving influential drivers in the learner's life as role models. However, to help teens fully understand the impacts of their actions, several videos and graphic images were included in the slides.

A twenty minute long video made up a large portion of the course, detailing a car accident where five teenagers had been killed. It reinforced many messages that had been mentioned earlier. A teen, without a license, was speeding along at 90mph in the dark with five underage passengers illegally squashed into the small car. They went to fast around a curvy overpass and flew off of it, flipping to a stop. The driver was the only survivor, and was later prosecuted and given jail time. Interviews were dotted throughout, showing the emotional blow the families and the entire community had taken. The raw hurt in the videos affected NPA's students, with young driver Abram Rau realizing that "those people in those cars have their own lives and they have their hopes, wants and dreams, and if you drive recklessly, you can end them." Using these videos invoked such emotional responses that it was a success in the mind of Craft. "That's the purpose of taking a real story with real people, real officers and real family members to see how they were affected," he said

While overall many people found the presentation helpful, not all of the feedback was positive. Ari Alter had given it only a "three out of ten" effectiveness rating, saying that there was "a lot of review if you've done the online driving course." However, many people think that the driving course is an inadequate preparation for the responsibility of being a learning driver. "[California's drivers ED course] is definitely not enough to individually make a good driver," explained Craft. We need to bring together the community and involve parents to make confident, young drivers. The increase of preparation needed to become a driver has been growing as time progresses. In 1935, few states required a test to be taken, even after all vehicles had to have been registered. However, a minimum age of 16 was needed to obtain a drivers license. It wasn't until the 1980's that graduated licensing was accepted by most states, allowing for the acceptance of slightly younger drivers with more preparation. The annual deaths from car crashes decreases with the increasing of restrictions for driving in the U.S.. From an all time high in the late 1930's where 5% of people died from car crashes, the percentage of people dying in car crashes is one of the lowest numbers in over a century, measuring in at just under 2%. However, even now, with a graduated permit and a many hours long course required for everybody under eighteen, the U.S.'s age requirements remain lax compared to many European countries.

There are many dangers in driving, with distractions from even the smallest items able to be fatal. So, always remember to be constantly vigilant and that, "it's better to be a late driver than the late driver."



PHOTO BY ABIGAIL HASTING-THARP  
**Thea Lamers, NPA junior, has been a licensed driver for 5 months and has become safe and informed through driving classes prior to getting her license.**

# Attend the Tale of Sweeney Todd!

By Zoe Osborn  
Staff Writer

"Attend the tale of Sweeney Todd!" No, seriously. According to the majority of NPA students who saw the production at the Oregon Cabaret Theatre (OCT), it was an amazing experience and a play worth seeing. These NPA sophomores and seniors attended "Sweeney Todd" on September 5th during the annual school trip to Ashland, Oregon.

This chillingly gothic piece by Stephen Sondheim is the story of Sweeney Todd (Galloway Stevens), a barber. Sweeney Todd, after being wrongfully imprisoned, returns to his home on Fleet Street to get revenge on Judge Turpin (Todd Nielsen) who sentenced him to life in prison. Upon returning, Sweeney opens up a barber shop upstairs from Mrs. Lovett's (Valerie Rachelle) bakery. On his path for retribution he ends up slitting a few more throats than intended, using his razor. He and Mrs. Lovett, who has a shortage of pie filling, then end up making the dead people into pies and selling them.

In an interview with the OCT, Stevens said that, in his mind, the character of Sweeney thinks that everyone is to blame for his misfortunate situation, and "he gets to a point where he loses empathy towards everyone." Stevens recounts that he "was allowed as an actor to manipulate and do his own version of what he took from the script," as opposed to just performing another cookie-cutter Sweeney. As for the play itself, "It has everything. Murder, intrigue, mystery, passion, romance; it's chock full of drama," said Stevens. Rachelle finds her character, Mrs. Lovett, to be "the catalyst for the story." She believes the score for Sweeney Todd is one of the best written in Sondheim's career. "The epic soaring melody lines take you on an emotional journey, and you can't help but go along with these characters

and understand what's going on inside them," explains Rachelle. She says this production has "an intimate setting where you're really going to understand the core relationships and emotional journeys of these characters. It really gives you the face to face, heart and soul, blood and guts, love and passion that Sweeney Todd is."

These actors aren't the only ones who find the production to be brilliant, as many NPA students had raving reviews. "It was really amazing, and was just so well put together," explained Cosmo Bernstein, a junior. Sophomore Amadeus Garcia Brown added "I'm usually into grimmer productions. I've always enjoyed plays that really delve into the human condition, so seeing Sweeney Todd was just a wonderful experience because it was so real." Jade Romero Daily, a sophomore, also "loved the whole thing," and especially appreciated the dramatics and thriller aspects of the murder scenes. These scenes, however, were not for everyone. Senior Rayna Pearlinci said, "I thought it was excessively violent. I know they were trying to make a point about justice and how corrupt the system is but they didn't present it in a meaningful way." One aspect that seemed to be enjoyed among the majority of students was the use of somewhat nontraditional theater space. Sophomore Devon Baker-Berry "liked how they chose to have the play in a theater with a restaurant." It added an extra-erie element for the audience, as they had the ability to order items including pie from the theatre's restaurant, while watching a play in which humans are being turned into pies. "I loved the set. When I walked in it was really detailed and I worried it might be limiting itself, but it turned out to be pretty versatile," said sophomore Harvey Mitchell. Overall, the production was well received by the NPA students who attended and they likely won't forget the "demon barber of Fleet Street!"



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRYON DEVORE  
**Galloway Stevens as Sweeney Todd and Valerie Rachelle as Mrs. Lovett dramatically end a song in The Oregon Cabaret Theater's production of Sweeney Todd.**

# Get to Know Bodhi Waller

By Nikita Michelle Van Nordstrand  
Staff Writer

Bodhi Waller is the new 9th and 10th grade math teacher at NPA. He's a Humboldt native and U.C. Berkeley graduate, but there's much more to him.

Waller has been teaching for about 15 years, mostly taking positions as a substitute, which he has found to be incredibly valuable. He explains that "as a substitute, you really see the whole range [of students]"

His first teaching job was at NPA, almost immediately after graduating college 15 years ago. Waller still stays in touch with his old students. Before his experience at NPA, he had no plans of being a teacher. Some notable past teaching experiences include one student setting another students hair on fire, a student sticking a paperclip in an electric outlet, and on one occasion, a student eating a pin while Waller supervised a metal shop class.

Waller has several interesting hobbies outside of school, and notes that he's "always been athletic." One of his favorite ways to exercise is capoeira, an Afro-Brazilian martial art that incorporates acrobatics and music. He's been involved with capoeira on-and-off for as long as he's been teaching, and has also become interested in samba drumming and dancing.

Waller has been noted by NPA students for his interesting approach to class discussion. Along with the typical math problems presented in the classroom, he asks his students a thought provoking question at the beginning of every class. "My favorite thing about teaching is the students," he explains. "I love hearing [their] opinions on things and the way [they] see the world and the way they approach problems, especially when it's different from how I see problems and how I see the world and the way that our experiences shape us."

***"I love hearing [students'] opinions on things and the way [they] see the world and the way they approach problems, especially when it's different from how I see problems and how I see the world."***

Waller wants the NPA community to know he appreciates feedback, and he's happy to help out. He jumps at any opportunity to improve his classes or further engage students, and looks forward to his future at NPA. Sophomore Zoe Osborn said that "he finds a very good balance between fun and learning, and incorporates joy into our math-class experience."



PHOTO BY ABIGAIL HASTING-THARP  
**Bodhi Waller, NPA's new math teacher for the Freshmen and Sophomore classes has been teaching for 15 years and has returned to NPA where he first taught after graduating college.**





# Meet Michael Masinter

By Nikita Michelle Van Nordstrand  
Staff Writer

NPA's new english teacher, Michael Masinter, is known for his interesting approach to engaging students in the classroom. His favorite color is green, he likes Thai food, and his story is one you want to hear.

Masinter was, in his own words, an outcast in high school. He couldn't stand being inside a classroom all day when he could be wandering outside in sunny Los Angeles. So that's just what he did. He would walk around, explore, and "contemplate." He had 78 absences in his junior year, he didn't like school, and never imagined he would become a teacher later in life. Masinter explains that "the desks, the bells, the sense that if you fall behind you'll never catch up - all of that bureaucracy, that institutional fixedness and lack of flexibility. The tone and attitude of the institution itself made me so uninterested in school."

**"The tone and attitude of the institution itself made me so uninterested in school."**

Michael Masinter, teacher

Then, at 16, he fell in love with a girl named Krystal. He thought she wouldn't want to drop out of school and roam the woods, so he made it a point

to participate in school and society for her, which proved to be difficult. "It can feel like physical pain to sit in a classroom all day," said Masinter, who maintains that opinion to this day. Due to this, he tries to engage students by having an open learning environment, because "learning happens even when it isn't fixed or in a structured classroom. When people are together discussing their ideas they learn a lot." As for the girl, they got married, and have been together for almost 17 years. She teaches English and Social Studies at Sunnybrae Middle School and is known by her students as Mrs. Masinter.

Masinter rediscovered his love for learning in community college. He taught abroad in Thailand for two years and found a natural proclivity towards the profession, as well as an interest in Buddhism and Thai culture. He likes the strong appreciation of education in Thailand and the general sense of happiness and living in the present. His interests, apart from travel, Buddhism, and literature, include spending time with his dad in Oregon and drinking coffee with his wife as they discuss their days and their students.

His favorite aspect of teaching is the students, and the varied opinions and ideas they present. He enjoys the diversity of insight and the fact that teens are such flexible thinkers, as opposed to adults who tend to be set in their ways.

The NPA community is happy and excited to welcome Masinter to the school.



PHOTO BY AMAYA BECHLER

**Michael Masinter, NPA's new 10th-12th grade English teacher, brings an involved and enthusiastic attitude into his classroom, and looks forward to continuing his teaching career at NPA. He has expressed his gratitude for the creative liberties he is able to take as far as academics go, and for the attentive attitudes of his students.**

## Inside the Wonderous World of OSF's "As You Like It"

By Abigail Hasting-Tharp  
Staff Writer

Kicking off this year's annual trip to Ashland, NPA students attended As You Like It. Written in 1599, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (OSF)'s As You Like It is a modern interpretation of a timeless tale. Classified as a pastoral comedy, this play is one of William Shakespeare's most famous works. The play entranced its audience with a story of laughter, love, and in this rendition, a challenge to society's rules of conformity.

Directed by Rosa Joshi, this years production of As You Like It was seen as being particularly unique by NPA students. "I think the musical aspects of As You Like It helped to integrate the viewer into the performance, creating a very immersive atmosphere different from reading the script," commented junior Eva Swartz. The cast and crew had six weeks of intensive rehearsals preceding the production's opening in March. Actor Hannah Fawcett (ensemble) highly praised the carefully crafted creative team for OSF's As You Like It. Fawcett feels it was greatly "fortunate to have so many different people working on the show." Contrary to the majority of modern theatre works, almost all of the creative team members were female. This cultivated a "more positive energy," that actor Roman Zaragoza, who played Orlando De Boys, claimed can be felt on and off stage.

Known for producing classical works with all-female casts, Joshi incorporated radical changes into her version of As You Like It, the most notable of which being the gender swaps of multiple characters. Zaragoza remarked on how "male" the show originally was when written by Shakespeare, recalling that in 1599 it only contained four female characters. Joshi made an active choice to change that, casting a multitude of female actors and changing a number of the main characters to women instead of men. "I think it makes the show a lot better," said Zaragoza. He believes that having Duke Senior, a male character, be played by a woman gives the play a "gentler" aura that furthers the message of equality

that Joshi's adaptation of As You Like It seeks to put forward.

Wanting the audience to leave the Angus Bowmer Theatre stunned with the Shakespearean magic preserved in this adaptation was the goal of the creative team. All of As You Like It's music was originally composed and carefully perfected by Almer Hefferan. The production's movement director Alice Gosti worked to enhance the show's magic and personality. Recalling the developmental stages of rehearsal, Zaragoza raved about Gosti's creative process. "We were given lots of creative agency as to what movements our characters used," explained Zaragoza. During workshops early in the process, actors were paired and instructed to come up with movements that correlated with certain prompts. These ideas were later integrated and edited by Gosti into the choreography used in As You Like It during its run.

Many students can agree that with its captivating choreography, wonderful creative team, and extraordinary cast, As You Like It was a joyful and reverent addition to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival 2019 season.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNY GRAHAM

**Left to right: Jessica Ko (Rosalind) and Roman Zaragoza (Orlando De Boys)**

## Phoenix Rising

By Jaxon Peaker  
Staff Writer

When the high school basketball season kicks off, the NPA coach will be one of the youngest high school basketball coaches in Humboldt County and most likely the country at age 18.

Last year, NPA alumni Phoenix Arnold was the high school boys' basketball captain. This year, he's coming back as the head coach for middle school girls' and the high school boys' 2019-2020 basketball season. "I was really excited because I played for this team for 4 years and I put a lot of my time into it," Arnold said. This is an inspiring experience for Arnold, as he looks forward to coaching his peers, as well as new students. "It's a surreal experience for me, since I remember Phoenix being really excited about basketball," senior Ronny Whitlatch said. Having a former team member as the head coach has the possibility to be both positive and negative for those on the team. Junior Abram Rau expressed his concerns on this matter because "people might think that it is less serious and they can slack off." However, Rau also noted that under Arnold's inspiring coaching, "everyone that goes to play basketball is gonna be there to play to win." The players agreed that it would be a shame if people decided to slack off and not take this season seriously. Another tough aspect for Arnold will be drawing the line between friendship and professionalism, although he has no concerns because he feels that he's "there to be the coach, and it's an added bonus that I'm friends with all the players."

Not only has Arnold played on the boys' high school basketball team, but he has also spent the last two seasons assisting in coaching for the NPA middle school girls' and boys' teams. He is currently attending College of the Redwood to get his associates degree and plans on devoting a lot of his free time towards NPA's basketball program this year. "I know their playstyles already, so I know how each of the players operate on the court," concluded Arnold.



PHOTO BY JAXON PEAKER

**New boys' basketball coach and NPA alumni Phoenix Arnold directing his team, which has been practicing for upcoming games.**

## Heron Television

The newest branch of student journalism at NPA

By Alex Riggs  
Staff Writer

Lights! Camera! Action! NPA's latest student journalism program is overflowing with ideas. NPA juniors Slate Taylor, Abram Rau, and Caleb Weiss have begun a video-recorded news program, the first broadcast to be expected by the end of the semester, fittingly named Heron Tv

Though the group has been wanting to do this for a time now, it took the research and effort to truly start. With the idea that "nobody else was doing this," Rau explains that with the lack of student journalism in Humboldt, and complete absence of student video-journalism motivated him to begin this project. Along with Rau, Taylor prefers film as a medium and has never seen a project of this type done before on the school level.

In terms of goals for this original endeavor, the group hopes to "provide insight onto news both at the school and local level, as well as broaden the scope with topics like climate change." Taylor, Rau,

and Weiss also hope to provide a unique teenage perspective, an element missing from most local news sources.

Taylor invasions panels and guest speakers to broaden the perspectives brought into Heron Tv, making it appealing to a wider audience. Weiss sees the news show as a platform to "create relevant stories out of a new medium, with the angle of investigative reporting." Rau voices his excitement for the studio the group will use, which includes professional aspects such as a green screen, studio lights; "an overall high-grade recording space." The intersection of these three juniors' ideas will be uploaded to Youtube or Access Humboldt.

"This is not just a three-man job," Rau explains in reference to the support Heron Tv show will need from the NPA student body. The group says that social media support and feedback are both positive ways of assisting this growing and developing team.

NPA, watch out, Heron Tv is on its way to release.



PHOTO BY AMAYA BECHLER

**NPA junior and founding member of Heron TV Abram Rau interviews Arcata High senior Jack Taylor in the midst of the global climate strike that took place on September 20, 2019.**





# Tennis and the Van: a Team Shaped by Traditions

By **Juan-Nikolas Engel**  
*Staff Writer*

On a sunny Tuesday in October, the NPA girls’ tennis team left school early. The tennis van atmosphere was filled with music from traditional captain’s CDs. The team arrived motivated at the St. Bernard’s high school courts, and after their warm-up, the first double games of the day started.

The matches played against St. Bernard’s were fast-paced and riveting. Number one doubles partners junior Thea Lamers and senior Autumn Wright played against their opponents and won with a score of 8-6 in a thrilling game. Doubles partners Natasha Anderson and Ruby Devoe, both juniors, ended with an 8-0 win for NPA. In the end, NPA won two doubles matches, three singles matches, and lost one single game. Ella McCurley, a freshman who joined the team this year said that she “felt empowered because I did a lot better than I expected and received a lot of reassurance from my teammates.” On the ride back to NPA, everyone in the van was very happy with their performance individually and as a team. “The team spirit is really good and I think we are a pretty nice team when it comes to treating the other teams with respect. Michael teaches us that,” said Anderson, in the game. It was evident that NPA players cared a lot for good sportsmanship and that the matches are played fairly. Michael Bazemore, NPA’s head coach added that ”if we can do those things then we will have fun before the game, during the game, and after the game regardless if we win or lose.”

“The team has really good energy on the court,” said Bazemore. The energy comes from each player in the ladder (“ladder” is the team ranking) and Bazemore helps them to improve themselves. Devoe, a junior who has played tennis for both Arcata High School and NPA, spoke well about the coach. “Michael is very supportive and gives a lot of good advice on how to improve.” At the beginning of the season, the ladder always has a new ranking, due to the influx of new players and especially freshmen on the team. This tends to be a challenge, but the team overcomes it, building team spirit with every match. The biggest tournament they attended was the Humboldt-Del Norte County (HDN) championships. Wright described the tournament as “more like a competition because you can win overall and get a trophy. It’s really special in that way.” One of the biggest highlights was that sophomore Alex Riggs made it to the HDNs for the second year in a row. At the end of the season, the team achieved the HDN school ranking of fourth, ahead of McKinleyville, Eureka, and St. Bernards.

Senior Gale McComas joined the team this year. Her first impression was very positive, and she said that “when I went to my first practice, everyone was so nice and open and helped me to learn the ropes.” She was the sixth on NPA’s ladder and overcame many challenges, such as having to play in a match against St. Bernards number two player. Eva Devoe, a freshman recalls being nervous when first joining the team. “I was first worried that I would be the only beginner on the team, but it turned out that most of the players I have played against are also beginners.” She really liked to practice with the team, because during those times, Bazemore gave a lot of advice to each player about how they could improve their individual skills. He made them practice using games like “the queen of the court,” or by creating very challenging doubles routines for the team. Riggs played her second season for the team and praised the team’s practices as “the trainings are really good. We get more experience each time and Michael also gives us corrections for the matches.”

The strong sense of team spirit is built upon many traditions, and Bazemore, as the longest-standing figure of the team described one of the team’s oldest customs. “Creating a

captain’s CD was established by the first girls’ tennis captain in 2003, and it has been done since then each year.” The CD’s are filled with songs which have become popular with the team, as they listen to music during their drives to matches. Wright, as this year’s captain, will be responsible for making a CD. The team also snacks on Cheez-its or Asian food, and after some games, the team will go to a Chinese restaurant. One of the team’s more independent traditions is “night tennis,” when the group gathers at Larson Park to play tennis and eat ice cream. Anderson explained the team’s last tradition, where “at the end of the school year, the whole team goes to Jean Bazemore’s house and we eat dinner together. We have a ping pong tournament and also play ultimate frisbee.” Riggs finds the traditions endearing and thinks “that the traditions which our team carries out every season really strengthen and unite us as a group. They make us stronger when we play matches and overall we work together really well.” For McCurley, Devoe, and McComas, who have recently completed their introductory tennis season, the future has a lot to hold as they continue to grow as tennis players and teammates.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MELISSA HORNE  
**Sophomore Alex Riggs (top), freshman Ella McCurley (bottom right), and senior Autumn Wright (bottom left) compete in their last match of the season against Eureka High School. The NPA girls’ tennis team and their traditions have been around for as long as NPA itself and will continue to shape the lives of the students on the team.**



# Hairspray Review

By **Abram Rau**  
*Staff Writer*

It wasn’t exclusively Shakespeare that was on the bill at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival this September. NPA Freshmen and Juniors were treated to a vibrant and entertaining performance of the musical Hairspray on their second day of NPA’s annual trip to Ashland. Unlike Between Two Knees and As You Like It, no class time was spent discussing the play, and most students (myself included) entered the theater with a blank canvas in their minds.

After I settled into the theater, I was immediately jolted into the play’s introduction with music and spotlights sweeping over the stage where Tracy Turnblad (played by Katy Geraghty) got ready for school in 1960s Baltimore. Tracy, an outgoing and vibrant but overweight high school student, belongs to distinctly to the “outsiders” group at school. The protagonist, her shy friend Penny, and a group of African Americans from school and the surrounding community become close friends, and become the protagonists of the show.

The main place of conflict, the Corny Collins studio, does an excellent job of showcasing the struggle faced by the cast. Tracy, obsessed with a popular dance show filmed at that station, is one of many girls who make up the show’s audience who don’t look like copies of the teens on the show. When she shows up for her audition, she immediately sticks out. Because she cares so passionately about performing, this is where we see her character sing the most, while the other cast members are relegated into the background, producing some powerful scenes. She’s determined to make TV more inclusive, and says that “it’s time we acknowledge who the audience of this show really is.”

The many musical and dance numbers in the play were sublime, and my sentiments were echoed by many other students. Fellow junior, Bryn Cheli-Colando, thought that the musical performances that night were “spot-on,” and junior Anastasia Long said that it was “the best musical ever.”

The excellent lighting changes and the use of unique props

continued past the play’s introduction. One large set piece was painted so as to be a TV studio, police station, jail, record store, school, and dance floor all in one. This type of creativity was something that solidified the audience’s appreciation for the production.

The play was a rallying cry for one Baltimore group who was historically underrepresented on Television during this time: African American teens. Those who wished to appear on the Corny Collins show had to wait until “Negro Day,” a special program airing once, headed by Motormouth Maybelle, the mother of Tracy’s close friend Seaweed. Tracy and Seaweed embody the spirit so often seen in modern day teenage activists. As Greta Thunberg rallies millions of people to raise awareness of climate change, Tracy and Seaweed rally viewers of the Corny Collins show to eventually overtake the set, and create a program reflective of the show’s true audience in Baltimore.

This play was a thoroughly entertaining performance with excellent choreography and an age-old message of great importance to share.

The Oregon Shakespeare Festival declined a request for an interview with an actor.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL  
**The cast of Hairspray stands strong and singing on Ashland’s Oregon Shakespeare Festival stage. This hit musical was enjoyable for many NPA students who attended it during the Ashland trip.**





# Exchange Students at NPA

By **Zaca Leatherwood**  
Staff Writer

This year, Northcoast Preparatory Academy has been happy to host seven new exchange students for the first semester of the 2019 school year. NPA has a long history of hosting exchange students, giving them the opportunity to study the IB program in Humboldt County's unique setting, and in return, every year exchange students come sharing their rich cultures and personalities making NPA and their communities a better place. All of this year's exchange students are participating in 11th or 12th grade, and are native to Europe, coming from Spain, Austria, France, Belgium, and Hungary. Each student has brought a new and appreciated perspective to NPA and is excited to participate in the school as well as explore Humboldt for their remaining months.

**Gergö Udvarhelyi** is a 17 year old from Budapest, Hungary, who arrived in Humboldt County in August of 2019, marking his first trip to the United States. Udvarhelyi has been enjoying his stay in Humboldt by going to the beach and making new friends. When asked what the strangest thing about Humboldt County is, he remarked that "everyone is very welcoming here, and in Europe people are not so welcoming, they're more hostile. [Here] you can just have a nice conversation with your waiter, which is definitely a nice change but still different." Though he enjoys going to the beach, that experience has been topped by something that many would find surprising. "Well it might sound weird, but the school so far has been amazing and I just love coming here and enjoying the community." Udvarhelyi explains that the people and the social environment of NPA make it a very enjoyable place to be, which has helped him to not feel the pangs of homesickness which are so often experienced when studying abroad. "I haven't exactly felt homesick, but it's because I have a method to avoid it, and I try to focus on stuff that is happening here instead of focusing on stuff that is happening at home. I keep connected to my friends [in Hungary] so I do not feel homesick," explained Udvarhelyi. Although his expectations for California were far different than what he came to experience, it was ultimately for the better. "I was told that Americans were very stupid. I found this stereotype incorrect because most people here are actually more intelligent than people I have met in Europe, and of course, hamburgers are great." So far during his time at NPA, he has become a prominent member of the new, NPA Dungeons and Dragons elective. The students of NPA are happy to be around the creative and new perspective that Udvarhelyi brings.

**Gaspard Vallee** is a 16 year old from the southeast of France. This is Vallee's first time in the United States, but was not surprised by any major differences from his home country. Vallee explains that "there is not a big difference between France and the US. France is inspired by the United States in many ways. One difference is that in France, I always have the same people in my class. Here, the class's composition changes every day." Vallee remarks that the strangest thing that he has found so far in California is that "there are always nets on windows," which contrasts the screenless nature of his own country's windows. Vallee has been loving his time in Humboldt County, calling his exchange situation "amazing," and that although he didn't choose Humboldt, he is "really happy to be here." The students at NPA enjoy Vallee's humor, good spirits, and the kindness that he exudes. Vallee explains that what he enjoys most about Humboldt is the wildlife. "There are gigantic trees, but I also really want to meet a raccoon and a bear in the forest. My favorite place was the beach during the night with the light from the moon."

**Annika Greiner** is a 16 year old from Wels, Austria and is a seasoned traveller, having been to the United States several times before. Still, she was surprised by Humboldt's unique community. Greiner lives part-time between the country and the city, and is very happy about her host situation, staying in Trinidad with junior Bella Ely and another exchange student, Luis Roquero. Her favorite part of living in Trinidad has been the easy access to the beach, where she enjoys spending time. Greiner is creative, fun and wholesome, and explained that some of the hobbies that she had in Austria were horseback riding, taking photos, and drawing pictures. "Spending time with my friends here is a lot different because we like to go to the beach or go on hikes which I really enjoy," explained Greiner. Since her arrival at NPA she has begun to run more often than she had in Austria and even joined the NPA cross country team, which she enjoys very much. Greiner has been most looking forward to "the holidays like Thanksgiving and American Christmas. I'm really excited about that and Halloween."

**Valentine Lucic** is an 18 year old from Brussels, Belgium. She is very kind and brings a great sense of humor, as well as important insights into politics and social issues. One of her classmates in the 12th grade, Shoni Rheinschmidt described her as "very fun to be around, and is always excited to try new things. When I'm around her it seems as though we have been friends for years." Proving that our friendliness in Humboldt is not something found everywhere, Lucic is yet another exchange student who is stunned by how engaging people have been in conversation which she likes a lot and thinks is way better than in Belgium. Lucic has felt homesick many times, and as a suggestion to other exchange students and travelers she suggests limiting your communication with home and trying to stay as busy as you can in your new environment, being as talkative with your host family as possible and being involved in things like sports in your community. Her favorite place in Humboldt County so far has been the giant redwood trees and the parks they surround. In Belgium, Lucic enjoys participating in theater, and hanging out with friends, which she will get to experience during the Junior/Senior play later this winter.

**Lucia Samper** is a 16-year-old from Austorease, Spain, making up part of the Spanish contingent of exchange students present at NPA for this school year. When asked about her hobbies, Samper said that she likes "surf, run, stay with my family, watch films, go to parties with my friends and make more friends." Although she has said that she has missed her home a lot, Samper is happy that she is in Humboldt and is enjoying the community of students in her class and school. Junior Ailani Hanshaw describes Samper as being "such a great sweet person. She is so kind to everyone she meets and treats everyone with respect".

**Juan-Nikolas Engel** is a 16 year old from Vienna, Austria. Engel arrived in Humboldt County in a different manner than the other exchange students, as his family friend Hannah Fodor is an NPA alumna who graduated last year. Fodor and her family had told Engel about the school's accessibility and the rich cultural knowledge that came with it. Eager to investigate, he did research and discovered that NPA would be able to accept him for the school year. Engel is a bright, creative, and energetic student. He is fluent in German, English, and Spanish, and almost fluent in Russian. His hobbies include playing soccer, surfing, tennis, running, and hanging out with friends. Engel has shown the grit needed to surf in Humboldt's harsh conditions by having gone several times already. When asked if going on exchange has benefited his character, he replied that it has, as he "also had the experience of exchange in Russia for three months. From my experiences, I think that exchange is really great". His favorite thing to do in Humboldt has been to hang out on the Arcata Plaza with friends.

**Aitana Martinez Gonzales** is a 16 year old from northern Spain in Castro-Urdiales. This is Martinez Gonzales's first time in the U.S.. During the beginning of her trip, she stopped in New York City for a conference that her exchange organization (PAX) had put on. Martinez Gonzales has been enjoying Humboldt very much and has found several similarities between it and her home, as they both have rainy winters. The biggest difference that she has noticed is that here "everything is so separated and there are no tall buildings, and in Spain, everything is very compact and you can go everywhere walking". The thing that Martinez Gonzales has said has been the strangest thing in California has been the way people dress, as well as noticing the homeless population present in both Arcata and Eureka. Martinez Gonzales' favorite thing about Humboldt is the beach and the lush green landscapes, although she has especially enjoyed spending time inland at the river. According to Martinez Gonzales, time is the best remedy for homesickness, elaborating that she has not yet found a good method, but that with time, her homesickness has lessened. She feels that going on an exchange has helped to build her confidence, as "you are coming to a new country and nobody is going to help you. I mean, your host family can help a little, but you need to be in charge of your own things. So that gives you independence and I think confidence in making new friends and things like that". Martinez Gonzales hopes to continue enjoying her time in Humboldt alongside all of her new friends.

And finally, **Luis Roquero** is a 16 year old from Bilbao, Spain. He has a great sense of humor recognized by a fellow Junior Aiden Miele, who says that "he's just a super funny person just like all around. I remember the first time he came to class we had a circle around him, and we were laughing just talking to him. Having him in the class has been really fun." Roquero's favorite thing about Humboldt has been "the redwoods, with all the little animals. I love the redwoods because on my first day in Humboldt my host family took me to the redwoods and the forest was so beautiful, with the animals and the noises." While he's unsure if he has grown in maturity during his exchange, he knows that there are some who find that to be the case. "My mother thinks that it has made me become more mature because of all the problems that I had to solve with new people." Roquero explains that he has only felt homesick when talking to his parents, but that most of the time it is easy for him to forget. His hobbies include watching Netflix, playing soccer, cross country and swimming. Roquero has been a delight for the NPA community to spend time with because of his joyous character and honest attitude.

R'delle Anderson is one of Roquero's host parents and has enjoyed having him in her home. Anderson is no stranger to exchange students, as she explained that she and her husband have hosted an exchange student every year for the last six years. Though this school year presents her with new changes as it is her first time taking on two exchange students at the same time. "It's been interesting to have the mix of an exchange daughter and an exchange son. It certainly makes for a much more lively household," Anderson explained. She remarked that she "thinks we're learning a little bit more about Austrian culture, a little bit more about Spanish culture, and I think we're learning a little bit more about parenting. We have two kids coming into our home who have their own parents with their own parenting styles, and now they're trying to live in our home with our style. So I think it challenges me to think about how other parents handle things." She says that she would "absolutely recommend hosting an exchange student if given the chance."

Host siblings Bella Ely and Caleb Weiss have shared their experiences living with exchange students. Ely said that having exchange siblings has been a lot of fun, and that "you get to experience a different culture in your home, and you also get to share your own." For Weiss, who has been hosting Vallee, the experience has been a joy. "We love it. My family has been able to experience the French culture and to really let someone into our home that we can call a brother and a son." When asked if the process of hosting exchange students has benefited their character, both replied in strong agreeance. Weiss says that "being with somebody all the time who has grown up in a different culture than you have, and who does things a little bit differently is nice because [you get] to see a different perspective, and I've definitely shifted a few things in my life to understand them". Ely shares that she's "definitely benefited from exchange students because it makes me think more about the world".

Congratulations to all of the exchange students for taking the risk of leaving their homes and families to find new ones, thousands of miles away. NPA students, and host families alike can't wait for more memories to come, as they continue their exchange experiences.



PHOTO BY ZACA LEATHERWOOD

**Top row, from left: Gaspard Vallee, France; Gergö Udvarhelyi, Hungary; Luis Roquero, Spain; Aitana Martinez Gonzalez, Spain. Middle row: Valentine Lucic, Belgium; Lucia Samper, Spain; Annika Greiner, Austria; Bottom: Juan-Nikolas Engel, Austria.**





# Unrehearsed yet Authentic

NPA’s biannual cabaret remains vibrant

By Amaya Bechler  
Staff Writer

At seven o’clock on November 1st, red, white, and blue lights flashed and sirens screamed outside of the Arcata Playhouse. NPA students and parents attending the annual fall cabaret were greeted by an emergency scene; multiple police cars, fire trucks, and an ambulance were attending to a nearby crisis.

While the cause of the emergency response remains unknown, inside the playhouse, the atmosphere was warm, welcoming, and calm as students prepared for an evening of performances. The audience took their seats in the small seating area of the playhouse, a stage known for its close proximity between audience and performer.

This year’s cabaret consisted entirely of singing acts. Cabaret coordinator and junior Oliver Schroeder attempted to recruit more diverse types of acts with no success. However, the nine performances that made up the cabaret still represented a range of various talents.

Many students accompanied themselves with an instrument, including piano, guitar, and in senior Jane McCaffrey’s case, an autoharp. An instrument less familiar to most of the audience, the autoharp is a zither which works by dampening all strings other than the chord selected. McCaffrey, while admitting to very little practice with the instrument before her performance, still used the autoharp to accompany one of her songs.

Not all the songs sung were in English, either; senior Maya Hergenrader demonstrated her affinity for other languages by singing in both French and German.

Other performers presented a wide variety of music. Representative of this, the cabaret concluded with an open invitation to the audience to get on stage and sing along to “Country Roads” with the performers. The rendition, if painfully tone-deaf, embodied the organic and unscripted nature of this fall’s cabaret.

As per NPA tradition, each act was introduced by a pair of MC’s, who also supplied plenty of humor to smooth the transitions between acts. This year’s MC’s were especially notable, both being of the namesake of Aiden: Aiden Vergen, a senior, and Aiden Vayo-Tur, a junior. They made an excellent pair in terms of keeping the audience well-entertained. Describing his technique for humor, Vayo-Tur explains, “I find puns on the internet and forget them, and then try to remember them in a panic while I’m on stage.”

Many of the audience members were impressed by the cabaret and the performers’ talents. Juan-Nicolas Engel, an exchange student from Austria, was especially surprised by fellow students’ bravery to step up and perform even when they admittedly hadn’t prepared much.

Indeed, chaotic preparation seemed to be the theme underlying this year’s fall cabaret. “Knowing the amount of work that went into it I was really impressed,” says Schroeder, who took on the role of coordinating the cabaret for the first time this year. Despite some confusion with the last-minute performances and the physical program, Schroeder concludes that “it just ended up being whatever it was, and I think that made it really authentic.”



PHOTO COUTESY OF TAHVO STEPHAN  
**Left to right: Freshmen Eva Devoe and Ella McCurley sing “Build Me Up Buttercup” by The Foundations during this year’s biannual cabaret performance.**

# Oohs and Aahs at the Arcata Playhouse’s 10 Minute Play Festival

By Zaca Leatherwood  
Staff Writer

On October 18th, people from all over Humboldt gathered to watch The 10 Minute Play Festival at the Arcata Playhouse, a creative outlet for the members of The Arcata Playhouse’s Apprentice Guild to show their works. There were 3 plays in all: Hope and James, an original production written and directed by NPA junior Oliver Schroeder, The Broadcast, an original production written by NPA sophomore Alexandra Riggs and directed by Mackenzie Ridgewood, and Genesis, an adaptation of the novel by the same name, co-directed by Ridgewood, Sarah McKinney, and Schroeder.

The organization behind these short yet delightful plays is Apprentice Entertainment (AE), which was created by the founder of the Arcata Playhouse, Jackie Dandeneau. When asking the current head of the group Sarah McKinney what Apprentice Entertainment is, she explained that “Apprentice Entertainment is a youth-led group that gathers weekly and participates in a variety of activities. We create theater, plan special events, and make a yearly zine of all original prose, poetry, and art. The events are designed to be all-inclusive and community-minded.” Dandeneau started Apprentice Entertainment in 2010 and led it until 2016 when McKinney took over as its head. McKinney revealed why she thinks that the organization is important, explaining that “Apprentice Entertainment is beneficial to young people because we offer them a place to gather to collaborate and create with each other. They build skills in several artistic disciplines and learn to rely on each other and in the process, they create strong community bonds

as well.”

Schroeder directed Hope and James, which was his first original production. “Last year a friend and I were looking to produce a production of Falsettos The Musical, and we happened upon this youth group that did original theater, and we joined with the intent of still putting on Falsettos. While it was a dream that quickly died, I’m pretty glad that it did because it led us to be able to create a lot of original content and completely create things like student productions, and now I’m writing another scene,” he explained. Schroeder voices that it was a “great” experience, further elaborating that “the organization is awesome because they give students that they trust with executing your creative decision they give you complete control over everything including the design the lighting the direction your casting,” and that “they produce and write grants so you can fully create something that is exactly what you wanted right from the very beginning”.

Actor Harvey Mitchell says that he learned a lot throughout the experience. “It was very hard to play someone who is mild-mannered and quiet and also be able to project from the stage so I think to try to find that balance was a big learning curve. That skill was definitely developed throughout the process,” he explained. Mitchell sees acting as a big part of his future, and values the time he spent with his peers working on the development of the play.

Through collaboration and creativity, the students at Apprentice Entertainment have created enjoyable plays at a time friendly length. Let’s only hope that we see more of each of these creative minds in Humboldt’s growing youth drama scene!



PHOTO COUTESY OF OLIVER SCHROEDER  
**Junior Cosmo Bernstein portrays her character Hope on the Arcata Playhouse stage during Hope and James, which was written and directed by fellow Junior Oliver Schroeder.**

# One track, One goal

By Juan-Nikolas Engel  
Staff Writer

Four times a week during their season, NPA’s cross country team was focused on the track. Each runner was there with their own motivation, but they shared one goal, to finish as fast as they could. Meets were held every Wednesday, and with every race there came a different course with new challenges to overcome.

Six high schools take part in every meet. The NPA cross country team hosted their meet at the Arcata Community Center on the 2nd of October, and was organized for the third time by the team coach Adam Hess. The whole team arrived early to help with the setup of the track, demonstrating their team spirit and commitment to their sport. At the starting line, the NPA girls cross country team was represented by seniors Valentine Lucic, team captain Shoni Rheinschmidt, and sophomore Zoe Osborn. On the boys team, juniors Miles Eldridge, Zaca Leatherwood, Gaspard Vallee, Jason Roberts, Luis Roquero, Abram Rau, Juan-Nikolas Engel, and sophomores Jaxon Peaker and Devon Baker-Berry were lined up. Leatherwood described his experienc-

es at the starting line: “When we all lineup, everybody started to focus on themselves and did their last-minute stretching. Then they gave us the start signal of the race and we tried to stick with our people. And if you want to beat someone in the race, you try to stick with him from the beginning.” Lucic is an international student from Belgium who joined the team. Her racing experience was that “the NPA meet made me want to try even harder and gave the team a very good vibe.” The whole event was a pure success and the team was cheered on by NPA classmates.

For the first time this year, the “Six Rivers Running Club” has given their saved funds to the community for running shoes. They sponsored cross country runners who couldn’t afford them, making a visible impact on the students and community. Hess added that, “if getting a pair of shoes is going to stop you from running, they are going to see that you get a pair of shoes.” This contribution gave high school students in Humboldt the possibility to make their individual running experience as good as possible, and to be part of their school’s cross country team.

One of the most important things in the race is the motivation of a runner, which is different for everyone. Baker-Berry, for example, said, “I love the team spirit, but something about running and pushing yourself, and setting goals and beating those goals, and getting new ones is really a great feeling that has added to my school year.” His teammate Peaker described his

running experience by saying that “running is the closest we can get to flying as humans, and it is fun to go as fast as you can without having to use a car or a bicycle”

Hess finds cross country to be fulfilling in that it’s easy to see how the process comes full circle. “You give them your time and you get the reward of seeing them enjoying the races and the cheering for one another.” Osborn echoes Hess’ enthusiasm when he coaches and said that, “he gives good advice and helps us to encourage our love for the sport,” and added that under Hess’ coaching, she had improved greatly since the beginning of the season. The practices helped the whole team to run some really good times, the most notable of which being Rheinschmidt’s time of 23:15 minutes for 5 Kilometer at the Del Norte meet, and it took Peaker 17:45 minutes at the Humboldt Del Norte league championship. With every meet, the race times for each team member improved, and the bond of the team got stronger, thanks to traditions like mini-golfing, tag, and the end of the year cross country party. “The cross country team experienced a lot of growth over the season, and we got way closer as a group. Everyone was really supportive and improved so much,” reflected Rheinschmidt. She wishes the team the best for their next season, and plans on watching them race once she’s graduated. The season is now over, but thanks to Peaker’s creating of a new after school running club, the team will go into the next season prepared and better than ever.



PHOTO BY AMAYA BECHLER  
**Senior and cross country team captain Shoni Rheinschmidt rounds a corner during a meet.**





# Against the Wind Festival

By Zoe Osborn  
Staff Writer

1958: the Golden Rule sailed through the Pacific Ocean led by Skipper Albert Bigelow. The wind in their sails and a goal in their minds, the small crew of four made their way to the Marshall Islands with the aim of protesting the nuclear bomb testing taking place at the time. However, to the dismay of Bigelow and many other anti-nuclear advocates, the boat was turned around by the U.S. Coast Guard, and their voyage cut short. While that expedition may have ended, the spirit of the Golden Rule lives on and today is manifested in the form of the Against the Wind Festival (AWF).

The AWF was started 59 years after the Golden Rule’s voyage. This happened when Jack Irvine, a retired physician, stumbled upon a play called Which Way the Wind that focused on themes such as peace and nuclear warfare. Already a supporter of the ideals behind the Golden Rule’s expedition, Irvine then worked with others to produce a week long pro-peace festival in 2018 inspired by the play with the goal of raising money to support the Golden Rule in future voyages and help subsidize the cost of its 2015 restoration. The festival not only focused on climate change and nuclear warfare but additionally touched on social topics such as sexism and the struggles that immigrants face in coming to the US.

This year the second annual festival ran from November 11th to 17th taking place at the Arcata Playhouse. It included a wide variety of events promoting peace and education on topics surrounding climate change and social justice. The festivities were kicked off Monday in an event called “the human cost of war,” which was a night honoring veterans and their sacrifices. Presenters Robert Gould (the President of Physicians for Social Responsibility) and Paul Chappell (a West Point graduate, Iraq war veteran, and peace literacy advocate) shared their thoughts on this poignant subject with those who attended this free admission occasion. The following night’s theme was “Voices for a New Future: Students Speak Out,” which entailed, “high school and college aged students performing slam poetry, dramatic sketches, music, and more on themes of war, peace, climate change, and social justice,” and was emceed by Eureka Poet Laureate David Holper. NPA junior Ruby Devoe performed an original poem “Bunyip” named for a children’s book of the same title. The

poem related the misunderstood creature in the book to the immigration crisis and the prejudices and misconceptions people have surrounding it. Devoe was really glad she got involved, “it was a really beautiful thing. You saw all these young people coming together. Everyone had their own unique story.” She found that there were many adults from older generations who “were all there to support, they cared so much. You could see the intergenerational gap being bridged there.” NPA sophomore Alex Riggs, found herself becoming a part of this metaphorical bridge. Riggs was interested in participating in the festival and so she reached out to one of the organizers, John Heckel, and soon found herself putting together a team to participate in the Nuclear Jeopardy game show. Wednesday’s subject matter was “climate disruptions and local solutions” wherein a panel discussed the “current state of knowledge and a range of technology pathways, including nuclear power-with an emphasis on local efforts.” “Nuclear jeopardy: the game of your life,” was the Thursday show that tested the wits of competing teams while sharing critical facts on climate change and nuclear warfare. Starting off the musical portion of the festival was the Friday event, Songs of Freedom I: the Great March which was gospel, folk, and civil rights music curated by Harry Belafonte and inspired by the 1963 Great March on Washington. The second part of the musical segment was held Saturday and titled “Songs of Freedom II: Anthems from the 60’s and beyond” played by Humboldt musicians expressing “the current need for courage and unity.” The festivities came to a close however on Sunday night, when the Practicing Peace Award honored those who made contributions to the community. Thus the 2019 AWF came to an end, though hopefully this was just the beginning for many who were ready to adopt what they had learned from it into leading more environmentally and socially conscious lives. Beyond education however, was the festival’s goal of human connection especially of the intergenerational kind.

It was evident throughout the festival that an effort was made to include the younger generation in discussions on topics such as climate change that will be affecting them the most. Dale Preston, one of the members of the organizing committee for the AWF, commented that “everyone in the audience last year was my age” yet he and others knew that “young people are interested in climate change and social justice” so why weren’t the youth attend-

ing the festival? The answer lies partially in the lack of publicity or at least the lack of publicity that would reach people of all ages. To solve this problem, this year organizers created positions on their team that would pertain to younger people. NPA Senior Abigail McComas filled one of these positions as the Youth Media and Relations intern. The focus of her job was to “close the generational gap to get more youth involved in the event.” To do this she started by creating an instagram page for the festival knowing that the app was more popular amongst young people. In addition she and other youth interns tabled at HSU and the Farmer’s Market. McComas thinks that the efforts that were made paid off, “I feel like we had a really good turnout from younger people,” she said. NPA Freshman Ella McCurley who was on Riggs’ Jeopardy team shares this sentiment saying “I think youth are the most important part because we are the ones who will be affecting change” in the future. The game show itself was an attempt made by the festival’s organizers to appeal to younger crowds. Jane Hill, a member of the Against the Wind Commit-

tee, noted the importance of having functions like the game show saying “public events like this that are entertaining as well as informative can help make the public aware of important facts about the challenges facing us.” Specifically, “it’s really important that younger people come to events like these for the educational aspect of it. It’s important to be cautious and conscious of the environment and climate change” and have a perspective on global problems going forward, elaborates McComas. In the end the “mission is to not only support the Golden Rule but to educate, inform, advocate, and activate our community around issues of global and nuclear war” says Irvine, who this year served as the chairman of the Against the Wind Committee.

By most measures the festival was a success, there were good turnouts and not just from people over 60. All the people who came seemed to take away something. By attending, these people supported the Golden Rule, which is currently sailing to Japan for the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima, and the pro-peace ideals it sails for.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AGAINST THE WIND FESTIVAL  
Some of the profits from the Against The Wind Festival went to the restoration of the Golden Rule, a ship which had inspired the ideology of the festival. (Above) The crew of the Golden Rule works to prepare the ship for sailing after 50 years of inactivity.

# It’s Okay To Laugh

OSF’s Between Two Knees fearlessly explores Native American genocide.

By Autumn Wright  
Staff Writer

The sound of gunshots filled the small theatre as actors ran across the stage in a hurried panic. A man entered from below the stage and the play Between Two Knees began.

Between Two Knees tells an intergenerational story of familial love, loss, and connection that spans the 1890 massacre at Wounded Knee, forced re-education via Indian boarding schools, World War II, the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam war, and ends with the 1973 takeover at Wounded Knee.

Directed by one of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival’s (OSF) Artistic Directors Eric Ting, Between Two Knees was written by the intertribal Indigenous sketch-comedy troupe “The 1491s,” and was commissioned by American Revolutions: the United States History Cycle, which is OSF’s multi-decade program of commissioning and developing plays which were derived from important moments in history. Bringing together artists from theaters around the country, “American Revolutions works to establish a shared understanding of our nation’s past while illuminating the best paths for our nation’s future.”

The 1491s are comprised of Dallas Goldtooth, a member of the Mdewakanton Dakota and Diné tribes, Sterlin Harjo of the Seminole and Muscogee tribes, Migizi Pensoneau of the Ponca-Ojibwe, Ryan RedCorn of the Osage Nation, and Bobby Wilson, a member of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Dakota band. The group takes the meaning of their name from the year just prior to the arrival of Christopher Columbus and European colonialism in America.

Between Two Knees is considered a dramatic comedy, although one would never guess a comedy would be made of content sourced from such a tragic time in history, in which the cultures and lives of Native Americans were being destroyed. Surprisingly historical, the cast is almost entirely comprised of native american actors, which has been noted by many students to be a refreshing change to many of the OSF plays NPA has seen in the past.

In the beginning of the play, Larry, a host-moderator played by Justin Gauthier explains that “we



PHOTO COURTESY OF OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL  
(Left to right) Wotko Long, Rachel Crowl, April Ortiz, Derek Garza, and Shaun Taylor-Corbett belt out a song in the Oregon Shakespeare Festival’s BTween Two Knees.

gonna talk about war, genocide, PTSD and molestation, so it’s OK to laugh.” Throughout the play, the reminder that although there are difficult, and at times gruesome topics being discussed, its okay to laugh when the subject matter is portrayed in a funny yet respectful way.

“I think it worked really well, because it’s difficult to cover a topic like that without making people uncomfortable,” explained senior Melissa Horne. The 1491’s use of self-deprecating humor helps the audience react to the play in a different way than they would if it was just a drama. “Through this type of humor everyone is put down so that everyone is able to be on the same level and understand the issues,” elaborated Horne. This creates an even playing field for the audience, which students explain furthered their understanding of the play as a whole. This is seen in the beginning of the play as the audience is transported to the site of the Wounded Knee massacre, where the air is

punctuated by screams of sights of death onstage. The audience is left both confused and horrified as the cast makes a joke about “spinning the wheel of genocide” in a format similar to the Wheel of Fortune game show. Between Two Knees presents a theatrical chronicle of the events that took place between the Wounded Knee Massacre of 1890 and the takeover of Pine Ridge in 1973 by the American Indian Movement - which many consider as the “second” Wounded Knee. Therefore much of the plot is true to history, such as the boarding schools Native American children were sent to, and Native American involvement in World War II.

All the students who saw the play were aware of the historical and cultural context surrounding these horrific moments in history. Because of this, many students believed it was the most influential play NPA saw this past year, and has continued to remain in the minds and hearts of those who saw it.